

REMARKS

I. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 13, 14, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regards as their invention. Applicants have cancelled these claims and added new claims 19-22.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 4,132,423 issued to Chant (hereinafter “Chant”) and as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 3,239,872 issued to Kitrell (hereinafter “Kitrell”). Applicants have cancelled claims 1, 3, and 18 and submitted new claim 19 for examination.

Claim 19 is directed to a device for facilitating driving a rollable walker, supported on a surface, over an obstacle. The device has a swing arm connected at an upper end to a chassis frame of the rollable walker and terminating at a lower end to a foot. The arm is urged into a retracted position by engagement with the obstacle while the front wheels are supported on the surface.

Chant and Kitrell do not disclose an arm urged into a retracted position while the front wheels of the rollable walker are supported on a surface. Chant discloses a wheelchair having a strut assembly 2 terminating at a tire 16 and rotating about the axis of sleeve 25. (Figs. 1, 2, and 4; col. 2, lines 33-48). When the tire 16 engages the top edge of a curb (Fig. 4a) while the wheelchair is being driven forward, the strut assembly 2 is urged counterclockwise to a retracted position and the front wheels are lifted. (Figs 4a and 4b; col. 3, lines 9-16).

Kitrell discloses a wheel elevator mechanism having a pair of elevator shoes 32 and 34 pivotably mounted about axis "A" above the axis "B" of wheel 14. (Figs. 1 and 2; col. 3, lines 26-35). When the engaging portions 40 of shoes 32 and 34 engage corner 29 of obstacle 30 and force is applied in the direction of arrow D, the wheel elevating mechanism simultaneously retracts and elevates wheel 12. (Fig. 1, col. 3, lines 66-71). Kitrell also discloses an obstruction engaging member 74 having a single wire loop rotatably mounted about axis 73 on a bearing 72. Member 74 has curved side portions 78 and 80 with leading portions 90 that act in a similar manner as shoes 32 and 34, simultaneously retracting member 74 and raising wheel 68 as leading portions 90 are engaged with an elevated obstruction and force is applied along the direction of the arrow "H". (Figs. 3-5; col. 4, line 69 to col. 5, line21). Thus, claim 19 is patentable over both Chant and Kitrell.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 13 and 14 as obvious in light of Chant in view of U.K. Pat. App. No. GB 2,258,196 to Vincent et al. (hereinafter "Vincent"). Applicants have cancelled these claims and added new claims 20-22.

Claim 22 is directed to a device for facilitating driving a rollable walker, supported on a surface, over an obstacle. The device has a track and a trolley supported on the track. The trolley is urged into a retracted position by engagement with the obstacle while the front wheels are supported on the surface.

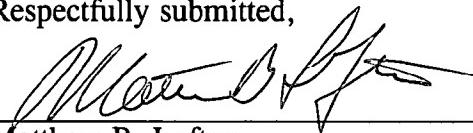
Chant does not disclose or suggest a trolley urged into a retracted position while the front wheels of the rollable walker are supported on a surface. As discussed above, Chant only discloses a strut assembly 2 that raises the front wheels as the strut assembly 2 is urged into a retracted position. Vincent only discloses a wheelchair having a pair of wheel arms 1 each having a set of wheels 2 disposed thereupon. (Fig. 1, page 1, ¶ 11). Arms 1 are retractable by a

user for storage, but are not intended to be retractable by engagement with obstacles. (Fig. 1). In fact, Vincent teaches away from arms 1 retracting by engagement with an obstacle as only discloses using arms 1 to negotiate an obstacle while in an extended position. Nothing in Chant or Vincent discloses or suggests the device of claim 20. Thus, claim 20 is patentable over Chant and Vincent. Claims 21 and 22 are dependent on claim 20 and patentable for at least the same reasons.

IV. Conclusion

Applicant believes that all claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that all claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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